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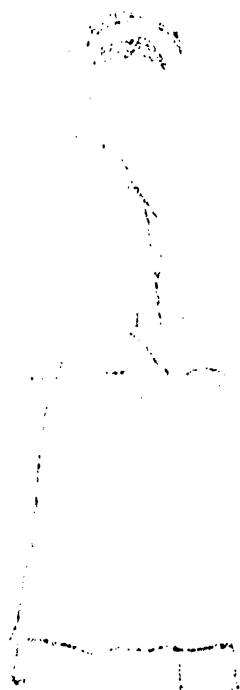
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King's Dance.







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A HISTORY
OF THE
RED MAIDS' SCHOOL

BY
WALTER ADAM SAMPSON

PRIVATELY PRINTED

1908



Dedicated,
BY PERMISSION,
TO THE
GOVERNORS OF THE RED MAIDS' SCHOOL
IN GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
MANY KINDNESSES.

P R E F A C E .

THE writer compiled this little History of the Red Maids' School, or Hospital, as it was originally called, chiefly from memoranda which he made from time to time from the ancient books and papers belonging to the Trustees of the Bristol Municipal Charities. He is also indebted to *Ricart's Calendar* and Latimer's *Annals of Bristol*, from which he has made certain extracts.

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C. H. Horton, Photo.

ALDERMAN JOHN WHITSON.

The Red Maids' School.

CHAPTER I.

LIFE OF JOHN WHITSON.

JOHN WHITSON was born in the year of our Lord 1557 or 1558 at Clewerwell, in the parish of Newland, in the County of Gloucester, about the time Queen Elizabeth commenced her memorable reign. It was a period when the fortunes of England had sunk to a very low ebb.

When young, Whitson migrated to Bristol, where he was educated, and in September, 1570, he was apprenticed for eight years to Nicholas Cutt, wine merchant.

It is not certain whether he remained with his master after the end of his apprenticeship, in 1578, but two years after Cutt's death he was in the employment of the widow,

managing the business and the property that had been bequeathed by her late husband. About the same time Mrs. Cutt, who was an only child, inherited another considerable estate on the death of her father. What is said to have happened under these circumstances is told by the Wiltshire antiquary, John Aubrey, who was a grandson of Whitson's third wife, and a godson of Whitson himself.

"He [Whitson] was a handsome young fellow, and his old master being dead, his mistress one day called him into the wine cellar, and bade him broach the best butt in the cellar for her.

"His mistress afterwards married him.

"This story will last, perhaps, as long as Bristol is a city."

The wedding took place on April 12th, 1585, when Whitson was over thirty years of age, and the bride thirty-eight. A daughter was born in 1586. The union appears to have been approved by the lady's family, for in 1586 her mother transferred to Whitson and his wife several houses in various parts of the city, including property then standing on the site of the curious timber house at the corner

and High Streets, now known as the
case, in consideration of a small life
while a few years later John Cutt
the Manor of Burnett, Somerset, to
for the benefit of the same parties.

With these advantages, Whitson entered
mercantile career, and quickly at-
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He was charitable in breeding up of
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He had a fair house in Nicholas Street
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October, 1850, the chimney-piece in the
room of this house was removed to the
[big hall of the Red Maids' School, Den-
Street, and in March, 1852, a smaller



C. H. Horton, Photo.

CHIMNEY-PIECE IN DINING-HALL,
RED MAIDS' SCHOOL.

of Wine and High Streets, now known as the Dutch House, in consideration of a small life annuity, while a few years later John Cutt conveyed the Manor of Burnett, Somerset, to trustees for the benefit of the same parties.

With all these advantages, Whitson entered upon a mercantile career, and quickly attained a high position, eventually becoming the most prominent and influential citizen of his time, being five times elected Member of Parliament for Bristol.

"He kept," says Aubrey, "a noble house, and did entertain the peers and great persons that came to the city.

"He kept his hawks. I remember five [youths] that had been bred up under him, but not one of them came to good, they lived so luxuriously.

"He was charitable in breeding up of scholars.

"He had a fair house in Nicholas Street [on the site of Stuckey's Bank], where is the stateliest dining room in the city."

In October, 1850, the chimney-piece in the large room of this house was removed to the dining hall of the Red Maids' School, Denmark Street, and in March, 1852, a smaller

chimney-piece was removed and fixed in the mistress's sitting-room.

Whitson's only daughter dying, Richard Wheeler, his nephew, who was bred a merchant under him, was his heir; but he proving a sot and a coxcomb, Whitson settled the better part of his estate upon the city for pious uses. Eight years before his death Whitson had enfeoffed nearly the whole of his real estate on trustees to uses to be defined by his will, and by a testament made in 1627 almost the whole was ordered to be transferred to the Corporation, who were to apply the profits to benevolent purposes, chief of which was the foundation of the Red Maids' School.

The residue of his personal estate, after the payment of several small legacies, was to devolve, as to two-thirds (about £3,000) on the Corporation for charities, and as to one-third on his two sisters and their children.

Whitson was thrice married. His first wife, Bridget, already referred to, had one daughter of the same name by her former husband, Trenchard, and two by him, Catherine and Ann, all of whom are buried in St. Nicholas Crowd. His second wife was

Magdalen ; and late in life he married a third wife, Rachel, whom he left executrix to his will, giving her the house before referred to in St. Nicholas Street, all his plate, £400 in money, a third part of £3,000 (the residue of his fortune), his small pointed diamond ring, and his chain of gold, and charges her faithfully and religiously to execute his will. He left £3 per annum to repair the Church of St. Nicholas, and 20s. for two sermons, one on November 7th (old style), now the 19th, celebrated annually by the Red Maids as "Founder's Day," it being the day when he was stabbed by Christopher Callowhill with a knife, which went through his nose and lip into his mouth, but without the effect of killing him as intended. This attempt on his life was made by reason of his having given an award in disfavour of the said Christopher Callowhill in a matter of debt which was referred to him as an arbitrator to settle.

CHAPTER II.

DEATH OF JOHN WHITSON.

JOHN WHITSON died on February 25th, 1629, in his seventy-second year, his death being caused by his horse stumbling and throwing him violently to the ground.

He was buried in the crypt of St. Nicholas' Church on March 9th, 1629, with much pomp and ceremony. From an account showing the disbursements about the funeral rendered by the widow, we are able to gather a fair idea of the feast and display which was probably in those days thought necessary and proper to make on such occasions. Perhaps the most satisfactory thing about this account, which amounts to the large sum of £418 5s. 9d., is that the larger portion consists of gifts to the domestics and friends and of benefactions to the poor.

The dinner provided consisted chiefly of fish and wine.

Two royal salmon, costing £2, together

with a variety of fish which is almost bewildering, were placed on the table. There were big eels, small eels, and other eels, thorneback, soles, millwell, plaice, lobsters, shrimps, carpe, roche, and dace, Alexander buds, tench, and sasnet fish. A hogshhead of claret wine, which cost £5, and other wine got at "the Bull," costing £5 12s. 4d. ; thirteen dozen rolls, costing 13s. ; and 7s. 6d. for baking of pies, together with a few minor charges, completed the outlay for this goodly spread.

The trained bands attended the funeral and performed the usual honours over the grave according to military custom, Whitson having been their captain. They were paid £6, and 16s. 8d. was expended on taffety for the captains.

£45 10s. was expended in frieze for gowns for the poor.

£1 5s. was bestowed on seventy-five poor men to whom the gowns were given, each man receiving a hat, seventy-five hats costing £5 5s.

£4 4s. was paid to other poor people, and there were sundry charges for beadles, messengers and lettermen.

The coffin cost 14s., the monument £26 6s. 8d., the iron gates for the same £5, and Mr. Palmer was paid 20s. for making the verses on the monument.

The value of Whitson's personal estate is also set forth in an account made by the widow at the time of his death. All the household stuffs, plate, jewels, iron and other goods in his dwelling-house and warehouses amounted to £1,274 13s. His adventures at sea were valued at £505. Moneys owing for iron, £1,123 12s. 3d. The good debts by bonds and bills, besides the aforesaid debts for iron, £1,000.

The hopeful debts by bonds and bills, £399 9s. 9d.; but his "desperate" debts were nearly four times as heavy, amounting to the large sum of £3,000, thus showing the generous nature of Whitson, who must have advanced large sums to many in distress, with little or no prospect of ever seeing his money again.

CHAPTER III.

JOHN WHITSON'S LIFE AND TIMES.

WHITSON led a long and active public life, living through the reigns of Elizabeth and James I., and during the reign of Charles I. to the time of the third Parliament, Parliament being dissolved the day after Whitson was buried, March 10th, 1629.

He also passed through more than ordinary times of trouble, as a glance at the following extracts from *Ricart's Calendar* will show.

In 1603 the death of Elizabeth occurred, the coronation of James I. taking place on the 25th July.

“ 1603. This yeere in the moneth* of July the great plague began in this citie and contynewed eighteene moneths and from July untill the xxixth of September followinge there dyed of the plague 100 persons or thereabouts.

“ 1604. Johannes Whitson, maior.

* Monath, Saxon *moon*, formerly written *mone*, month being written *moneth*.

" 1604. This yeere there dyed of the plague in this citie 2,950 persons. Also this yeare uppon the fowerth of October was the greatest snow that ever was knowne by the memory of man which continewd fower dayes, and by reason that the leaves were than uppon the trees, very many trees of all sorts, espeacially of fruit trees, were thrown downe by the roots, and the limbs and boughes of many of them were broken in pieces.

" 1605. This yeere there dyed of the plague in this citie 150 persons.

" 1606. Also this yeere there was the greatest inundacion that hath been heard of, which happened on the xxth day of January by reason of the force of the winde blowinge at South, South West, by means whereof the whole country of Brintmarshe and Saltmarshe and many people and cattell were drowned then and many merchants of this cittie sustained greate losse in their sellers uppon suggars woade and salte."

The stirring times in which Whitson's lot was cast no doubt made a very great impression on so remarkable a man.

The *History of the English People* tells us that no greater moral change ever passed over a nation than passed over England during the years which parted the middle of the reign of Elizabeth from the meeting of the Long Parliament. England became the people of a book, and that book was the Bible. Whitson's "Final Farewell to the World" evidently is a remarkable reflection of the spirit of those times.

CHAPTER IV.

BRISTOL IN THE DAYS OF JOHN WHITSON— WHITSON'S WILL AND HIS INTENTIONS.

BRISTOL in 1629 was a very dirty place, for complaints were general as to the continued foulness of the streets. The sum of £30 had for some time been paid yearly by the chamber for the purpose of keeping the city clean; the salary of the Common Raker, as he then was designated, was increased by the addition of £40, which was apportioned on the several parishes. About this period no person was allowed to drive a dray through the city, in consequence of the carelessness of the drivers, under the penalty of 3s. 4d.

The High Cross was taken down in 1633, enlarged and raised higher for the reception of four new statues. It now stood 39 ft. 6 in. The statues facing Broad Street were John and Charles I.; Wine Street, Henry III. and Henry VI.; Corn Street, Edward III.

and Elizabeth ; High Street, Edward IV.
and James I.

Bristol, crowded within its walls, with its many churches, must indeed have been a picturesque sight, though the roads were probably little better than our very worst country by-lanes in the present day.

The following extracts from the will of John Whitson, dated March 27th, 1627, give some idea of the hospital he wished to found for the forty maids of the city.

There was to be provided "a fit and convenient dwelling-house, mansion or habitation for the continual abode and residences from time to time for ever of one grave, painful and modest woman of good life and honest conversation whether married or unmarried having a husband well and qualified and of like good life and honest conversation and for forty poor women children (whose parents being Freemen and Burgesses of the said city shall be deceased or decayed;) . . . and shall cause the same mansion or habitation to be furnished with convenient lodging, bedding, linen and other necessities for the commodity and use of the said woman and forty poor women

children . . . the children . . . to be there kept and maintained and also taught to read English and to sew or do some other laudable work towards their maintenance as the Mayor's wife . . . and the said woman shall approve of, and shall cause the said women children to be bound apprentice to the said woman and to her successors in the said office or place for the term of ten or eight years at the least and none to be admitted above the age of ten years or under the age of eight years in the first instance . . . And that the said woman shall have the benefit and profit of all the labors and services of the said apprentices for and during the whole term of their several apprenticeships and shall find them during their said term convenient meat drink and apparell and at the end of their several apprenticeships shall find and allow unto every such apprentice meat and convenient double apparel provided always that every of the said children at their first entrance into the said house shall have double apparel allowed them at the proper cost and charge of their parents kindred or friends and if any of the said children shall happen to prove

unclean or not wholesome then such shall be removed . . . and shall cause every one of the said women children to go and be apparelled in red cloth and to give their attendance on the said woman to attend and wait before the Mayor and Aldermen their wives and others their associates to hear sermons on the Sabbath and Festival Days and other solemn meetings of the said Mayor. . . .

“ And that the remainder or residue of the said annuity or yearly rent of four score and ten pounds shall be disbursed and laid out, when and as occasion or need shall require, for and towards the necessary supply maintenance and reparation of bedding linen and other necessities for the commodity and use of the said woman and poor children and such servants as shall be necessarily employed or requisite to attend in or about the keeping, educating and bringing up of the said poor children and for the relief or maintenance of more other poor women children in the said dwelling-house to be thereunto admitted when and as the surplusage of the said annuity shall amount or extend to defray and bear the charge and expense of the same.”

To fully appreciate Whitson's intentions we must recall the times in which he lived. To be able to read and write was then without doubt a liberal education, especially in the case of girls. We have only to refer to the history of education in this country to realise what a far-seeing man Whitson was in founding such an institution as the Red Maids' School. Milton, in his *Tractate of Education*, published in 1644, while prescribing what was then considered to be a very liberal education for boys, has not a word to say on the subject of education for girls. The same apathy is apparent with other educationists of his and even later times; in some cases the idea of schools for girls is even deprecated.

The children to be thus cared for were to be the daughters of deceased or decayed freemen and burgesses. Wharton's *Law Lexicon* defines a freeman as an allodial proprietor, one born or made free to enjoy certain municipal immunities or privileges. In the reign of Edward V., and not before, very few of the burgesses bear the addition of Esquire in the returns, which became universal in the middle of the succeeding century.

It will therefore be seen that freemen in those days were more or less substantial citizens, and that the founder's intention was to benefit the children of burgesses who had the misfortune to lose their parents, or the children of those burgesses who had seen better times but whose fortunes were decayed, so that they were not able properly to support or educate them.

Turning to past records for information with regard to those who sought the freedom of the city, we find that in 1662 Robert Taunton, an organ builder, petitioned Council for the freedom on the ground that there was no similar artist in the city. He was admitted on a fine of £5. Taunton built the organ in Wells Cathedral at a cost of £800.

In 1663 Richard Barton, gentleman, paid no less than £100 on being admitted a free burgess.

In 1671 Robert Lippyat, distiller and metheglin* maker, was admitted on payment of £20.

At the same meeting the Rev. Nicholas Penwarne, Rector of St. Stephen's, petitioned for admittance as a burgess, pleading that he

* Beer made from honey.

had many children, with a probability of having many more, to whom the freedom might be beneficial. His request having been acceded to, applications to the same effect were forthwith made by the Vicar of St. Augustine's and the Incumbent of St. Werburgh's and St. John's, both of whom were granted a similar favour gratis.

In 1700 a merchant paid £35, a chirurgion £20, a cork cutter and a saddler £15 each, a tailor, a bricklayer and a stone carver £10 each, a milliner and two wig-makers £8 each because there was no other in the city.

A watchmaker was permitted to open a shop, and was eventually voted the freedom, in consequence of his offering a curious watch and dyall plate to be set up in the Tolzey, and undertaking to keep the same in repair during his life. This timepiece, still in excellent order, is now in the office of the City Treasurer.

Sufficient has been said to show the class of men who sought the freedom of the city in times past, and whose children it was Whitson's wish to benefit.

More than five years elapsed before the



C. H. Horton, Photo.

WHITSON'S TOMB IN THE CRYPT, ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH.

WHITSON'S WILL AND HIS INTENTIONS. 25

mayor and aldermen proceeded to carry Whitson's will into effect. The delay undoubtedly was due to the action taken by the kindred of John Whitson, his sisters, and sisters' children, who questioned the validity of the will.

Thereupon the mayor, burgesses and commonalty and the feoffees exhibited their Bill in Chancery against the co-heirs and executrix, which coming to hearing, it was decreed "that the plaintives should have hold and enjoy quietly the said lands against the defendants and all claiming from by or under them according to the will which said Decree was made Tuesday the 28th day of October 10 Caroli Reg."

CHAPTER V.

DECLARATION OF TRUST BY THE FEOFFEEES— FIRST ELECTION OF FOUNDATIONERS— PURCHASE OF THE PREBEND AND MANOR OF BEDMINSTER.

THE feoffees met and made their Declaration of Trust on April 21st (10 Charles I.), 1634.

They set forth the terms of the will, adding that he (Whitson) did in his lifetime declare that he resolved and determined to have a certain number of children settled in a house which he had procured whilst he lived, but that his good purpose and intention were prevented by his death. "We therefore think meet," they added, "that there be an honest poor woman and sixteen poor maidens with all convenient speed settled in the said house and be relieved and maintained until that provision which he himself hath made for the whole number shall happen to fall in hand." The house referred to was situated near the Gaunts' in College Green, with more

picturesque surroundings than the School now enjoys.

On September 16th, 1634, the mayor and aldermen appointed the mayor-elect and five aldermen to consider of a meet woman with twelve young girls to be settled for a beginning in the new hospital, such woman and children to be placed there by the middle of the following month.

Accordingly, on October 4th the first twelve maids, chosen from the twelve parishes, were admitted to the house near the College Green, under the care of a mistress, whose name is unfortunately not mentioned. She received £4 4s. from the chamberlain for the diet of the maids until Christmas. Articles of clothing, furniture and utensils were purchased by the feoffees, including six beds, a frying-pan, and wooden platters, the establishment being completely equipped for the modest outlay of £33 13s. 8d.

The name of the first mistress on record is Mrs. Elizabeth Read, whose name is mentioned in the school accounts for 1641.

From the time of the Declaration of Trust by the feoffees, one John Barker continued to be the receiver and payee until his death in

April, 1642. Mr. Alexander James took up these duties until a new feoffment was made in July, 1642, at which time all the feoffees were dead (other than John Tomlinson and Alexander James). The accounts were very carefully kept, and are still in the possession of the trustees of the Bristol Municipal Charities.

The following entry appears at the close of the accounts for 1642 :—

“ Item. The Balance of the accompt which was remaining in Mr. James his hands, *i.e.* the sum of £473 3s. 8d., which sum the present 8th day of September, 1642, was, in the presence and by the consent of Mr. Tomlinson, Mr. Creswicke, told up in 4 bags and put into the chest, there to be kept till opportunity happen to disburse the same in furtherance of the said good uses.”

On October 20th, 1642, the mayor, most of the aldermen, and the grantees met at the house of Mr. Whitson, this being the first meeting when the will, &c., was read, and there was for them a moderate dinner

provided. Afterward the accounts were passed, and it was agreed to allow Mr. Francis Yeamans "Twenty nobles at this time of accompte for his pains now and past, and so yearly hereafter until it shall be thought fit to increase the same stipend."

Although Bristol was at this time the centre of the Civil War which was raging between Charles and the Parliamentarians, it is somewhat surprising to find that the feoffees were able to expend a sum of between £50 and £60 in the repair of the hospital.

During the next month the Common Council were engaged in deliberating a letter which they had received from the king, requiring a provision of 1,500 pairs of shoes and stockings for his army.

The horrors of pestilence were added to those of civil war.

In 1645 the plague spread through the country. Three thousand persons are said to have died from April 11th, 1645, to February 18th, 1646 : 403 died in St. James's parish, and 180 in the parish of St. Michael.

The following entry, which is recorded in a volume dated the 8th day of September, **A.D. 1642**, "touching the greate guifte given

by Mr. John Whitson," is of too much interest to pass unrecorded :—

" DIE MARTIS. (Tuesday) 26 November 1650.

" To the Worshipful Richard Aldworth Esqr., returned to London on his purchasing the Rectory of Bedminster, paid him in Novem. and Decem., 1650."

From the same source we learn that the feoffees, thinking to benefit the funds of this charity, purchased in those troublous times the Prebend and Manor of the Parsonage of Bedminster, with the moneys in stock belonging to the estate of the worshipful John Whitson, Alderman, deceased, for the better performance of the good uses settled and intended by him, Mr. Robert Aldworth taking the same manor with other things in his conveyance, the deed of conveyance following.

This indenture is dated April 28th, 1651. It was enrolled in Chancery the same date.

Colonel Pigott paid £18, the first year's rent of the Rectory of Bedminster, to the feoffees for the year ending September 29th,

1651, and again the same amount for the following year.

Thomas Smyth, Esq., paid this rent for the year ending September 29th, 1653, and the feoffees continued to receive the same until the year 1658.

Then there is an ominous entry, which shows that a year and half's rent of the parsonage was "unreceived."

In 1645 Bedminster Church was burnt down during the siege of Bristol. At the restoration of Charles II., in 1660, the bishops were restored to their seats in Parliament, and the church was reinstated in the same condition in which it stood before the commencement of the Civil War.

Thus the feoffees never received the rent in arrear for the parsonage, and the living once more reverted to the State, to the loss of Whitson's charity.

Bedminster Church was restored in 1663.

CHAPTER VI.

BUILDING OF SECOND SCHOOL AND COMPLETION OF FOUNDATION, 1655-1722.

DURING the lifetime of Rachel, the widow of Whitson, twelve maids only were maintained in the hospital. It was after her decease, on September 18th, 1655, that the mayor and aldermen resolved to direct the feoffees to build another house near the present hospital, close to the Gaunts' in College Green, "wherein the 12 maids then lodged," and to provide convenient rooms, which, with the present house, would be a convenient habitation for forty maids.

Building operations were then slower than they are now, and it was expected that two years would elapse before the building was completed.

The feoffees were directed to commence the building on or before March 25th, 1656, but the final balance was not paid to the contractor until May, 1660, although the

school was probably ready for occupation sometime in 1659, as the mistresses received the allowance of £120 for that year, this being the amount the feoffees agreed to pay annually for the maintenance and education of the forty girls.

Although in the early days the feoffees made various payments for the benefit of the children and school, and occasional grants were voted to the mistresses towards the buying of corn "in these hard times," they appear after the year 1670 to have strictly confined the expenditure to the annual allowance of £120 already referred to.

In the early days many of the girls on leaving the hospital received sums varying from £2 to £5. This would be equivalent to gifts of about £15 to £30 in the present day, and must have provided them with an excellent start in life. The feoffees considered that with the profit of the children's labour and services the mistresses could maintain each child with a yearly allowance of £3.

In reading the past history of this school it is now easy to see that the weak spot in the good founder's will was the binding of

these children as apprentices to the mistresses, and permitting them to receive the profits of their labour and services. It is manifest that with an unscrupulous mistress the more the apprentices worked, the less time they were engaged in learning, the greater profit an unscrupulous mistress was able to realise. And so it came about that the poor children at one time were taught nothing but the carding of wool for the benefit of the mistress.

The mistresses must not, however, be held wholly responsible for all the evils which existed for a far too long period in the history of this foundation. The feoffees must share this blame, as one conclusion only can be drawn from the irregular way in which more than one treasurer kept the accounts of the trust. From 1701 to 1762 the accounts were kept most irregularly. Sometimes they were made up for six or seven years at a time. The details are few indeed during this period. No payment or help was given to the school beyond the stipulated allowance of £120 per annum.

Evidently the affairs of the school came to a climax in the year 1762. The Council

appointed a committee to inspect and settle the account of Edward Cooper, Esq., the treasurer of the Red Maids' Hospital, and report their opinion thereon, with such regulations and directions as they might think necessary for the future keeping of the accounts. Their report showed that a balance of £434 10s. 5d. was due to the charity from the estate of Alderman Cooper.

They recommended that all moneys should be received by the chamberlain, and that the accounts of the chamberlain, as receiver, should be made up and examined and audited on or before the second Wednesday in December in every year. They further recommended that no gentleman should continue in office as treasurer for a longer term than three years.

In spite of these good and excellent resolutions, matters did not apparently improve. it seems incredible, but no account was made up until fifteen years had elapsed.

CHAPTER VII.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOOL, 1722-1790.

HAVING reviewed the administration of the trust by the feoffees, we now turn to the internal affairs of the hospital, and it is scarcely surprising to find that they were in a most unsatisfactory and deplorable state.

It was on April 8th, 1722, that complaint was made to the Council touching the irregular management and discipline of the hospital; thereupon the mayor and others formed a committee to inquire into and inspect its state and condition and report to the next house.

On June 20th the committee reported that, upon due consideration and examination, it was their opinion that the present mistresses or governesses are not of a capacity to undertake the education of the girls in any useful or beneficial way as to render them capable of maintaining themselves in time to come,

and that the only business they are at present employed in (to wit, spinning of wool) is mean and unserviceable. That the present mistresses be removed and others more capable be employed to take care of and to instruct the children in sewing, reading and writing, and other useful management of housewifery and domestic affairs.

The committee conceived that the present allowance to the mistresses will not be sufficient to procure others of better capacity to undertake the charge, and were of opinion that the allowance for each girl should be advanced to £7 per annum, and that the mistresses should have the benefit of the children's work under their care and government equally amongst them.

The children were to be put under some regulation and method as to diet, lodging, clothes and other necessities, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital being quoted as their pattern, and if any deficiency arose as to funds, the same shall be defrayed by the Chamber.

It must be borne in mind that there were still two schools—one kept by Mrs. Dixon, the other by Mrs. Green. On September

7th, 1722, the same committee reported that they were of opinion:

That the forty girls should be placed and kept together, in one house, under one head-mistress or governess with proper teachers or instructors under her:

That the house now managed by Mrs. Dixon is capacious enough, with some small additions and alterations (which in our judgment will be much more convenient than separate apartments), to receive and entertain the whole number of children:

That the house which Mrs. Green now occupies and teaches, may be altered into one or two tenements and let out at a future advantage in some measure to meet the present expense:

That the girls be new clothed once in two years with red clothes and receive other apparel, and that there be provided for them in decent manner linen, stockings, shoes and sheets, with other necessaries as often as there shall be occasion.

Twelve months elapsed before this important change was effected, when the girls were removed from Mrs. Green's house to that formally occupied by Mrs. Dixon.

Mrs. Dixon having resigned, Mrs. Reeses was appointed to succeed her. When she (Mrs. Dixon) left there were fifteen girls in her house, whose ages ranged from seven to seventeen years. One of the children was admitted at the tender age of five years, another at five and a half, another at six, four at seven years, the others at ages varying from seven to ten and a half years.

Eighteen girls were removed from the house occupied by Mrs. Green, their ages ranging from ten to sixteen years. Of these one was admitted at six years of age, while another was fourteen when she entered the hospital.

Thus Mrs. Reeses had the care of thirty-three girls when she became mistress. Of these she apprenticed Katherine Stagg for five years to Humphrey Matthews, a joiner, on December 19th, 1723. The same day she sent Sarah Payton to the mint, she being distracted.

On April 19th, 1724, she apprenticed Mary Baker to William Mead, drugget maker, for five years, and Sarah Watkins she placed with Thomas Reynolds, a mason.

Six girls were admitted to the hospital on

December 13th, 1723, four more in April and one in August, 1724, thus fulfilling the decree of the founder, and bringing up the number to forty.

The expense for repairing and enlarging the hospital for the reception of forty girls, and for converting the second school into a dwelling-house, amounted to £464 10s. 11d., and a further sum of £108 9s. 8d. was expended in the provision of clothing, bedding and furniture for the girls.

Ten Dyche's spelling books were purchased at a cost of 8s. 4d.

The school converted into a dwelling-house was let to William Leech-Tyler at £20 per annum.

From an entry about this time we learn that 2s. was paid for carrying the distracted girl, doubtless poor Sarah Payton before referred to, to the mint, while a further entry tells us that 1s. 6d. was given to the officers when "the disorderly girl" was corrected. One wonders whether the correction was administered in such a way as to drive another unfortunate child distracted.



C. H. Horton, Photo.

WHITSON'S MONUMENT, ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH.

CHAPTER VIII.

HISTORY OF SCHOOL, 1790-1821—WHITSON'S MONUMENT AT ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH— SERMONS ON FOUNDER'S DAY.

A MEMORIAL was received on October 18th, 1790, from the Vestry of St. Nicholas, stating that the monument of the late Alderman Whitson, which was once elegant, now lies buried in oblivion, and is decaying in the crowd of the church. It was determined to remove the monument, with the arms and ornaments, and completely to repair and beautify the same at a cost of not exceeding seventy guineas, placing it under the belfry at the west end of the tower.

The sermon directed by the will to be preached on annually November 7th in St. Nicholas' Church was ordered once more to be preached, and the mistresses and children summoned to attend, this service having been discontinued for many years past.

On October 29th, 1791, the feoffees felt it necessary once more to pass a resolution to

the effect that in future all children shall immediately on admission be bound apprentice to the mistress. The school register alone discloses with what result.

Mistress after mistress was appointed, but the evil arising from such a system remained.

Between November 17th, 1789, and December 26th, 1840, thirteen girls died in the hospital, one girl was killed, eight girls were dismissed for ill-health, three girls absconded, six girls were expelled, five girls left for bad behaviour.

Rose Corvie, the present mistress, resigned in March, 1792, when Mrs. Anne Turner was appointed to succeed her. Mrs. Anne Turner was not a success, and she resigned on May 10th, but continued at her post until June 24th, when Mrs. Mary Morley was appointed mistress.

In 1795, the price of provisions being much increased, the allowance for each girl was raised from £7 to £8 per annum, and Mrs. Morley was voted £42 to help compensate her for the loss she had sustained from the time of her appointment.

The cost of food continued so dear that she received £42 yearly until the year 1800, when

in consequence of the then extraordinary and unprecedented high price of provisions, the feoffees voted £84. A like sum was also paid in 1801, the amount being reduced to £70 in 1802.

Until the year 1797 the children had no medical attendant, the mistress usually providing the medicine. This coming to the knowledge of Dr. Lovell, he tendered his services to the feoffees, provided they would consent thereto without his accepting any gratuity, fee or reward. Dr. Lovell's humane and generous offer was accepted, though it appears that the Agent (Mr. W. Harris) did not write to the mistress (Mrs. Morley) until June 15th, 1799. She was then instructed to send to Dr. Lovell when any of the children were indisposed, and that the doctor's prescriptions were to be made up by a Mr. Alexander Sheddens, druggist and apothecary, Union Street.

With the advent of a doctor, a master was appointed for the first time in the history of this school. He was to teach the ten senior girls writing and the first four rules of arithmetic.

The same year (1799) the ancient rules directing the provisions to be given to the children were read and confirmed.

The mistress was to have no more in family than herself and husband.

The winter half-year the children were to dine in the kitchen with a fire, or in one of the parlours without a fire. The holidays were to be three at Christmas and two at Whitsuntide, but if there be prayers or a sermon on these days the children were to attend, or learn a collect or psalm. Every Saturday afternoon was reserved for play.

The meals were three a day—breakfast, dinner, and supper.

Breakfast consisted of 3 oz. of bread with broth, milk porridge, or 1 oz. of butter.

Dinner : Beef and 6 oz. of bread, or mutton, vegetables and 3 oz. of bread, three days in the week ; 6 oz. of bread and 3 oz. or 2 oz. of cheese, two days in the week ; broth and 3 oz. of bread, two days in the week.

Supper : 6 oz. of bread with $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of cheese or butter.

Each girl had half a pint of beer with her breakfast when she did not get broth or milk porridge, half a pint of beer with dinner, and half a pint with supper.

In January, 1802, the rules for the children were revised and relaxed. At the hour of

twelve the work of the children ceased, and the whole of the afternoon they were allowed to play in the garden or in the house, as the weather permitted.

Present-day Red Maids will wonder where the garden was.

It will be seen that under Mrs. Morley the school had considerably improved, and that the condition of the children was altogether better.

In July, 1805, her health failing, Mrs. Morley was unable to properly discharge her duties. The feoffees, therefore, asked her to resign, which she did on October 9th following, with a retiring annuity of £30. Miss Ann Sharp was elected and appointed mistress for one year, but under her *régime* the conduct of the children once more fell into disrepute. In February, 1806, she was asked to resign, and Mrs. Anne Gwyer, widow, was appointed mistress on March 10th following. She was no more successful, resigning her office on April 9th, Mrs. Mary Ann Bryant succeeding her.

In 1807 provisions had again so advanced in price that an additional sum of £3 yearly was made for each child, and for their better clothing and education. This allowance was

to commence from April 20th, 1806, when Mrs. Bryant was first appointed. In 1810, on account of the high price of bread, a further sum of £60 was voted. In 1813 an additional allowance of £1 for each girl was made, thus making the allowance £12 for each girl.

Mrs. Mary Morley died on October 16th, 1814, she having enjoyed her pension for nine years.

In consequence of the much-lamented death of her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, in November, 1818, and as a mark of respect due to her memory, the mistress of the school, with her assistant, were provided with decent mourning, and each girl received a black silk handkerchief and a pair of black gloves.

In August, 1819, Richard Hughes, Esq., of Ilfracombe, Devon, offered to transfer to the Corporation the sum of £1,143 15s. 4 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities in augmentation of this foundation, on condition that he should receive the dividends thereon during his life, and have the immediate appointment of a child on the Red Maids' School Foundation, with the power of re-appointing upon any vacancy arising under his nomination, and that after his decease the nomination to be in the Mayor and Corporation.

This offer was accepted, and Rebecca Phillips, aged nine years, being nominated by Richard Hughes, was ordered to be admitted into the Red Maids' School on August 7th, 1819.

In September, 1821, Mrs. Bryant resigned the mistress-ship, and Miss Elizabeth Davis was elected so succeed her. A few months before Mrs. Bryant resigned she made an interesting statement with regard to her position as mistress. She had held the position for fifteen years. There were then forty-one scholars, forty being the complement. She received, she said, £12 annually for each girl, and was expected to maintain in board, and supply them with clothes (except bonnets, shawls and muslin handkerchiefs) and linen for their beds. Once in every three years new clothes were given to the children, and three suits were always kept in wear. No other perquisite or allowance was made to the mistress except what she derived from the earnings of the children's work. Mrs. Bryant stated that these earnings probably amounted to £100, taking one year with another, but that she was unable to speak with certainty as she kept no account whatever.

CHAPTER IX.

HISTORY OF SCHOOL, 1821-1836—PURCHASE
OF PREMISES, DENMARK STREET—PUR-
CHASE OF SITE AND ERECTION OF NEW
SCHOOL, TOP OF PARK STREET—SALE TO
BISHOP'S COLLEGE.

THE Rev. C. P. Bullock for several years past had instructed the children in their "chatechize" and in scriptural learning. The feoffees accordingly voted him a gratuity of £42, and he was requested to continue his services, and informed that a compliment of £12 12s. would in future be paid to him therefor from September 29th, 1821.

On November 19th, 1821, it was resolved to erect a new tomb at a cost of £105, and in the following year it was further resolved that a new figure of the founder, in his magisterial robes, be executed in alabaster and placed in the monument recently erected, and that the present figure be placed in the crypt where it originally was.

The feoffees in 1824 purchased premises in Denmark Street at a cost of £1,437, to enable them to make additions and improvements to the school when necessary.

The mayoress, in her visiting book (1829-30), records that the Mayor's Chapel having been closed the whole year, the children attended St. Augustine's Church twice every Sunday. She also records that there is a great want of neatness and regularity in the school. A dial having been obtained for the schoolroom, there will be no excuse in the future for any deviation from the general rule.

In October the mayoress further reported that the behaviour of one of the girls was highly culpable, when the following punishment was ordered : A black cap and no girl to speak to her, and she was not to go out the next holiday. On November 30th following the mayoress states that the girl having borne her punishment humbly, and seeming very penitent for her fault, she removed the black cap in the presence of the whole school.

The coronation of William IV. and Adelaide (Queen) was celebrated in Bristol on

September 8th, 1831. Each child received a medal and one shilling.

In November, 1827, the treasurer informed the feoffees that the flourishing state of the finances of the school would enable them to augment the number of the girls to fifty, and submitted that additional buildings be erected in Denmark Street. This idea of extension was for the time abandoned, and a site having a frontage of 179 feet at the top of Park Street, containing 1a. or. 24p., was purchased for £970, subject to a ground rent of £10 per annum.

Mr. Dyer's plans for a fine building on this site were adopted in December, 1834, and tenders amounting to £7,213 3s. were accepted. About two years later (1836) a new body of trustees was appointed by the Court of Chancery, in accordance with an Act of Parliament for the regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales, 6 William IV., LXX. vi.

The building was still incomplete in the year 1837, when the new trustees determined to take counsel's opinion as to whether they, as newly-appointed trustees, were justified in proceeding with the building or were

bound to do so. They arrived at this decision in consequence of a report of the school committee, which showed that the cost of building and site so far amounted to £10,732, and that the probable amount of costs not then ascertained amounted to £2,820, to which must be added a considerable sum for fixtures and furniture, making the entire cost of the school probably not less than £16,000. The committee further reported that upon examining the site and building they perceived that it was situated in a great thoroughfare between the old city of Bristol and the opulent and much frequented Clifton, and in their judgment the position was unfit for the abode of the Red Maids, and they considered a residence in a more homely and retired situation would be much more suitable for bringing up the children in modesty, frugality and sobriety, and that the very magnificence and beauty of the edifice, though intrinsically ornamental to the city, could only tend to unfit the children for their lot in after life.

In May, 1837, notice was given to the contractors not to proceed with the work, and in the following August the windows

were ordered to be boarded up to protect the building from the effects of the weather, but three days after the resolution was suspended.

In April, 1838, at the suggestion of Mr. Dyer, the architect, the tradesmen were directed to proceed with their contracts and complete the building forthwith, seeing it would be advantageous on any future sale of the buildings. The building was then completed in March, 1839.

Finally resolving to dispose of this building, early in the year 1841 Mr. Job Hartnell was appointed auctioneer, and the Trustees of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, having obtained power from the court, purchased these premises for the sum of £9,250; but the trustees receiving the offer of an additional £500 from the Bishop's College, they made no opposition to the re-opening of the biddings. Thus for the sake of £500 this fine building was lost to Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, then unhappily situated in Christmas Street, and sold to the Bishop's College at a loss of over £3,000 to the Red Maids' School.



C. H. Horton, Photo.

THE RED MAIDS' SCHOOL. QUADRANGLE.

CHAPTER X.

HISTORY OF SCHOOL, 1836-1850 — RE-BUILDING OF SCHOOL IN DENMARK STREET.

REVERTING once more to school matters, Elizabeth Davis, who had been mistress since 1821, died in June, 1828, when Elizabeth Empson was elected to succeed her.

Complaints were once more frequent as to general mismanagement. In March, 1836, Mrs. Empson, being advanced in age and incompetent, her resignation was accepted, and on April 26th Mary Wheeler was appointed matron at a salary of £180 per annum, with an increased allowance of £16 for the maintenance and clothing of each girl; but for the future she was not to receive for her own use the money earned by the children's work, and she was also required to find board for the mistress and assistant teachers as well as linen for the beds.

Mary Palmer Champion was appointed

mistress at a salary of £100 a year, and Mary Ann Weaver assistant teacher at a salary of £20.

In May, 1837, the school committee were directed to inquire into the system of farming the children, and whether it should be continued. Here, then, at last was brought to notice the weak spot in the management of the school, which had unhappily existed ever since its foundation, and done so much mischief. The trustees, on reviewing the matter, wisely determined to discard the system. In the following June the salaries of the matron and mistresses were re-arranged, the matron being no longer responsible for the keep of the children.

In November, 1837, forty-eight girls attended St. Nicholas' Church, after which they returned to school, when each child received a shilling, the gift of the trustees. The mayor and some of the trustees, with the clergyman and several visitors, afterwards dined at the Rummer Tavern, each person paying for his own dinner.

New rules and regulations were made in March, 1838, when Miss Wheeler, the matron, was appointed head-mistress, and Sophia

Ann Stewart and Ann Chinn were appointed under-mistresses. Insubordination, however, broke out in the school. Miss Wheeler was dismissed, and the school was put under the direction of Miss Stewart and Mrs. Chinn. This new arrangement did not improve matters, and in August Miss Charlotte Baar was appointed head-mistress, Mrs. Chinn resigning her appointment. Miss Barr also failed to maintain order. She complained that the girls were riotous and disorderly. The trustees consequently expelled four, suspended one for a month, and reprimanded four others. Miss Barr resigned in June, 1839, and Mrs. Maria Dursey was appointed in her place.

Matters went from bad to worse. Mrs. King, the assistant, was found unfit for her situation, and the committee on investigation discovered that she was a sister of Mrs. Dursey. Both were in consequence dismissed, and Miss Brand was appointed head-mistress.

The trustees having determined to rebuild the school in Denmark Street, No. 27 Trinity Street and the adjoining house in St. Augustine's Parish were taken in the

month of December, 1841, for the accommodation of the girls during the rebuilding.

Tenders amounting to £5,111 8s. were accepted according to the plans of Mr. Foster, and early in March, 1842, the contractor began to demolish the old Red Maids' School, which had been their home for nearly 120 years.

Unfortunately fever broke out amongst the girls in Trinity Street, some of the cases being very severe, one girl dying on January 27th, 1843.

Miss Eliza Brand, who had been mistress for two years, died on February 25th, 1843, and Susan Hensley was appointed her successor.

The new building, which was erected for the accommodation of 120 girls, was completed in August, 1843, at a cost of £7,320.

In September insubordination was again rife in the school. One girl and the nurse were dismissed, and other girls were sent home, but they were subsequently allowed to return.

Monetary rewards to the girls were tried; but this practice failed to obtain better conduct on the part of the girls, for in January,

1844, three girls were dismissed for misconduct.

In November six girls managed to obtain money from their school-fellows with a view to running away; they however relinquished their intention, and returned the money. On this occasion five of the parents were permitted to withdraw their children.

In June, 1845, two girls were dismissed for misconduct. In September one of the girls died.

In August, 1847, a girl was removed. In March, 1848, a girl died. In July five girls absconded and were expelled. A week later Miss Hensley resigned the head mistress-ship, and Miss Harriet Banks was appointed to succeed her.

Two girls died in 1849. Miss Banks was dismissed in February, ~~1850~~

1850

CHAPTER XI.

HISTORY OF SCHOOL, 1850-1875.

WITH the election of Miss Elizabeth Holt Browne, in March, 1850, as head mistress, the school entered on a new era.

Miss Browne had been an under-mistress since the year 1843, and those who are old enough to remember Miss Browne's kind face, and that of her sister, Miss Sarah Kennedy Browne, who was elected an under-mistress in August, 1843, will readily understand the change these two ladies wrought in the moral tone of the school.

During her long period of office Miss Browne only found it necessary to dismiss two girls—one in 1855, and one in 1865.

The mortality, however, was very high. Eighteen girls died during a period of twenty-five years (1850-1875), and one girl was removed on account of insanity.

Glancing back at the school register for the past sixty years, we find the following record ;

but it must be borne in mind that there were only forty girls in the school until 1837. In 1843 the number was increased to 120.

From 1788 to 1798 three girls absconded, three died, and two were expelled.

From 1799 to 1809 four girls died.

From 1809 to 1819 two girls died and one was killed.

From 1819 to 1829, two girls died, two were expelled, two were dismissed (ill-health), and two left for bad behaviour.

From 1829 to 1840 two girls died, two were expelled, three dismissed (ill-health), and three left for bad behaviour.

From 1841 to 1850 six girls died, four were dismissed, five expelled, and five withdrawn for bad behaviour.

From 1875 to the present date, 1908, a period of thirty-three years, with eighty girls in the school, six deaths only have occurred.

The number of girls was increased to 120 when the new school was built in 1843, and maintained until the new scheme of the Endowed Schools' Commissioners for the management of this school came into operation, in 1875 when the number of girls was gradually reduced to eighty.

In March, 1855, Jane Foley, a Red Maid, managed to run away from the school with her sister, and went to London. There she repented, having no money, returned to Bristol, walking the whole way, undergoing severe privation. She called at the school in a sad plight, and besought for readmission. Miss Browne was too kind to refuse such an appeal, and the committee consenting to her return, had no reason to regret their decision.

It is remarkable that the conduct and atmosphere of the school so improved, when it is remembered that the building was much too crowded, and that the girls remained until they were eighteen years of age.

"I was much impressed," writes Miss Laver, a former assistant mistress, who was appointed in January, 1865, "with the spotless cleanliness and the perfect order in which things were kept. It was a bright, happy place, with an atmosphere of kindness and sympathy."

There were four servants, the nurse, cook, laundress and portress. Some twenty of the eldest girls were appointed every month to help in the housework. These girls were dressed differently, wearing blue print frocks,

the contrast with the red dresses being very effective.

The girls rose at 6.30, prayers at 7.30, breakfast at 8.10. School commenced at 9.15.

Dictation, spelling and parsing occupied the first hour. Geography or history the next half-hour. Singing, drill or play the next half-hour. Reading, arithmetic, geography or walking the next hour and a half.

12.30 to 2.—Dinner and play.

2 to 3.—Domestic economy, scripture and natural science.

3 to 4.—Needlework.

4 to 5.—Needlework and singing.

Much needlework was done. Not only did the girls make their own clothes, they made the shirts of the boys in Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, and work was done also for the outside public.

All the girls had their hair cut and kept short, and many a fine crop of hair was sacrificed on the girls being admitted.

CHAPTER XII.

HISTORY OF SCHOOL, 1875-1908—SCHEME OF ENDOWED SCHOOLS' COMMISSIONERS.

WITH the advent of the new scheme, under the Endowed Schools' Act, the two Miss Brownes retired on January 12th, 1876, and Miss Frances Lydia Roberts was appointed head mistress. A great change now took place. The object of this new scheme was to give the girls of the school, who were henceforth to be admitted by merit, under a competitive examination, from the elementary and, in the case of orphans, other schools of Bristol, a sound practical and liberal education.

Many changes were therefore made both in the household management and in the school. No girl was permitted to remain in the school after she was fifteen.

The school was started by Miss Roberts on its fresh course with new books and



C. H. Morton, Photo.

THE RED MAIDS' SCHOOL. EAST WING.

apparatus, and with a staff of assistant mistresses. There were still some ninety girls on the foundation, but before a year elapsed the number was reduced to eighty, the number fixed by the scheme.

The first year or so was naturally one of transition. Previously the girls' time had been taken up mainly by industrial pursuits, regular school work being subordinated thereto; thus the girls at that period were not in the same state of efficiency as a good elementary school. Miss Roberts was a lady of high intellect and strong character. The rapid rise in the educational state of the school from 1875 to 1879 is very remarkable. During this period French was ordered to be taught the girls in the first class, and the Governors decided to enter girls for the Cambridge Local Examinations.

In 1880 telegraphy was introduced into the school as a subject of instruction. The girls frequently obtained Post Office appointments on leaving.

In 1881, at the suggestion of the head mistress, the scheme was amended so as to enable girls to remain in the school until they

were sixteen years of age, and a certain number until they were seventeen.

Louisa Chaffin was the first girl to be elected, in 1881, to receive an exhibition under the new scheme. She entered the Home and Colonial School Society to be trained for teaching.

The girls were regularly entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations, many passing successfully with honours.

Twenty-one certificates were awarded in December, 1885, ten with honours—four in the first class. The eldest student-teacher gained a first class senior certificate—a great distinction when it is remembered that fifteen only were awarded first class honours out of 1,138 senior candidates throughout the country. In addition she received the Royal Geographical Society's Medal for political geography. These were some of the greatest distinctions that had as yet fallen to the lot of this school. Miss Roberts had, indeed, done a great work. Not only raising the standard of the school by her influence and training, she had taught the girls a sense of responsibility, putting them, to use her own words, "as much as possible upon their

honour," and the confidence thus shown was more than justified by the result.

The celebration of the Founder's Day, on November 19th, 1887, was a sad one for the children. Miss Roberts, who had for some time past been seriously ill, was rapidly sinking. She died on November 22nd. The whole school and many of the Governors attended the funeral.

Miss Eliza Charlotte Bowen was elected head mistress on January 13th, 1888.

The girls still continued to win honours in the Cambridge Local Examinations. In December, 1888, twelve girls passed, four in honours; and three girls passed the College of Preceptors' Examination, two in the honours division of the first class, one in the second class, and two in the first class. Students obtained the first and second positions in the entire list.

In 1890 Miss Alice Kirby, a former Red Maid, was elected an assistant mistress, a post she held for seven years, during which time she obtained the degree of B.A. at the London University. She subsequently was appointed head mistress of the Normal College, Bloemfontein.

Her place was taken by Miss Minnie Louisa Routley, also a former Red Maid.

In 1891 shorthand and typewriting classes were started in place of telegraphy.

Mrs. Jane Seymour Ure was appointed matron-assistant in January, 1903.

During the eighteen years Miss Bowen was head mistress eighty-three girls passed the Senior Cambridge Examination, 173 the Junior Cambridge, and 130 passed the College of Preceptors' Examination. Seven girls gained gold medals awarded by the local committee of the Cambridge Examination. Eighteen girls were elected by the governing body to receive leaving exhibitions.

Out of 234 girls who passed through the school during this period 108 became teachers. One is head mistress of the Normal College, Bloemfontein; one assistant mistress in a public school at Ladysmith, one in a private school at Montreal.

Miss Bowen retired in July, 1906, and Miss Marian Webb was elected to succeed her.

About this time several of the old girls met with a view to founding an Old Girls' Society. A formal meeting was called, and upwards

of 100 girls met at St. Augustine's School, on May 28th, 1906, when it was unanimously resolved to form a society, which should be known as "The Red Maids' Old Girls' Society," the object of which should be twofold, viz. : social and benevolent :—

(a) Social reunion of old girls.

(b) The assistance of members in necessitous cases, and also of old girls who are not members in exceptional cases.

This Society has now a membership of nearly 100, and has increased its usefulness in many directions, evening classes having been formed for ambulance and first aid and cooking.

Before closing the history of this school, it is only fair to remind my readers that although some of the pages are not at all pleasant reading—some, indeed, are very dark—similar institutions throughout the country during the seventeenth, eighteenth, and the first half of the nineteenth centuries have only to turn to their own records to find equally dark periods.

The apathy with regard to child-life and the social state of the nation generally

during those periods is summed up by the historian :—

“Coarseness and brutality are the most prominent marks of the latter half of the seventeenth century. Independence and roughness, often degenerating into inhumanity, are the chief characteristics of the eighteenth century.”

It is not surprising, therefore, that the characteristics of the nation as a whole should show themselves to a certain extent in the school.

The dark pages are, we trust, finally closed, and the history of the Red Maids' School for the future will be one of continued prosperity and usefulness. Great strides have been made in the educational world within the last twenty years, and even at the present time great changes are taking place.

As in the past, so in the future these changes cannot fail to help in the development of the Red Maids' School, which is probably one of the most ancient and interesting foundations for the education and maintenance of girls in England.

APPENDIX.

THE coat of arms appearing on the cover of this book is that used by Whitson himself, and is copied from the mantelpiece which was originally in his house in Nicholas Street, now in the dining-hall of the Red Maids' School, and is that of the Guild of the Spanish Company of London, with which he was connected.

An error of many years' standing was cleared up by the late Mr. John Latimer, who addressed a letter (of which the following is an extract) to the trustees in the year 1900, with reference to the arms which were for many years presumed to be those of Whitson, but which belonged to the Winter family. They were, unfortunately, introduced into the memorial window of Alderman Whitson, and on his tomb, at St. Nicholas' Church, and were constantly used in connection with the foundation.

“ From a book now in the Reference Library, I have made an interesting discovery. I have long felt confident that the arms of John Whitson in the *Mayor's Kalendar* were a simple delusion. I have now found out the author of the hoax, namely Mr. Henry Smith, brother of the more celebrated Richard, the surgeon.

“ It appears that Mr. Smith, who was a collateral descendant of Whitson, hearing antiquaries talk of Whitsun Court adjoining St. James's Church, jumped to the conclusion that the court was the 'country residence' of the famous alderman, and drew up a plan of the premises which is in the above book. He next visited the Elizabethan house near the church, that he claimed as Whitson's, and having found in it an imposing mantelpiece decorated with a coat of arms, he immediately persuaded himself that the emblazonment was and could be no other than Whitson's. The amazing thing is that he not merely deceived himself, but that the amateur antiquaries of the time forthwith accepted his assumption as positive facts, and

besides engraving the arms on a fine portrait of Whitson, published about 1830, employed Edkins to foist the arms into the *Mayor's Kalendar*.

“Now all this romance can be easily disposed of. Many centuries before Whitson was born, the monks of the priory regularly held at Whitsuntide a manor court known as the Whitsun Court, at which their tenants rendered service. At the suppression, when Brayne got possession of the estates, the Court continued to be held in his name, as it was by his descendants. In 1579, when the property was divided by the husbands of his two daughters, Sir C. Somerset and Mr. Winter of Dyrham, the latter took the buildings at the west end of the monastery, and his son, Sir John, built the Elizabethan house still standing, and placed upon the mantelpiece the arms of the Dyrham Winters : ‘Sable, a fesse ermine, with a crescent for difference (see Atkyns’ *History*), and also their crest : An arm and hand grasping three ostrich feathers.’ He added on the sinister side the arms of his wife, which I cannot identify. And this is what the

Mayor's Kalendar claims to be the arms of Whitson."

In the following year the trustees voted £52 10s. for the restoration of the Whitson monument, when the arms of the Winter family were replaced on the monument and tomb by those of the Spanish Company above referred to, which were henceforth adopted by the Governing Body of the School.



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